

Playstage
Junior

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PUSS IN BOOTS



A comedy play with songs



Written by
Lynn Brittney

CAST

Wild Cats (6)

Puss

Lawyer

Peter

Matthew

John

Palace Guards (2)

The King

The Chamberlain

The Queen

Courtiers (3 speaking, the rest choral speaking but all singing)

Princess Daisy

The Vegetarians (any number - choral speaking)

Farmhands (4)

Ogre

Hardcastle (the Ogre's assistant)

Lady Ninja Cat

Castle servants (2 speaking, the rest non-speaking but singing)

Approximately 29 speaking parts. Unlimited choral speaking and singing parts. Some parts could be doubled if necessary (like the vegetarians and the Farmhands).

MUSIC

Backing tracks can be purchased and downloaded for a modest fee from various sources, as shown below. Or, you could source the original artist's recording from amongst parents/grandparents and just have the children sing along to it, as many schools do. If you cannot source them from amongst the school community, then Amazon sell very cheap downloadable MP3 tracks for hundreds of thousands of songs. These can be purchased, downloaded on to a computer and then burnt on to a CD for performance. Below we give the song title and source of backing tracks. Where it says "Traditional" or "Disney", this means there is no backing track we know of, but it may be in sheet music form in your school or on a children's school music compilation CD.

SUGGESTED SONGS:

Everybody Wants to be a Cat (The Aristocats)	www.ameritz.co.uk
Take A Chance on Me (Abba)	www.ameritz.co.uk
The Fast Food Song (The Fast Food Rockers)	www.ameritz.co.uk
Consider Yourself our Mate (Oliver!)	www.ameritz.co.uk
Stayin' Alive (Bee Gees)	www.ameritz.co.uk
The Impossible Dream (Michael Ball and others)	www.ameritz.co.uk
Freedom (Sugababes)	www.ameritz.co.uk
I do, I do, I do, I do, I do, I do (ABBA)	www.ameritz.co.uk

PUSS IN BOOTS

SCENE 1

In the countryside. There is a bench on one side and a bush on the other. (SEE PRODUCTION NOTES) All the cast assemble, wearing cat masks, for the opening song.

SONG 1. EVERYBODY WANTS TO BE A CAT (The Aristocats)

*Everybody wants to be a cat,
because a cat's the only cat
who knows where it's at.
Everybody's pickin' up on that feline beat,
'cause everything else is obsolete.
Now a square with a horn,
can make you wish you weren't born,
ever'time he plays;
and with a square in the act,
he can set music back
to the caveman days.
I've heard some corny birds who tried to sing,
but a cat's the only cat
who knows how to swing.
Who wants to dig
a long-haired gig
or stuff like that?
When everybody wants to be a cat.
A square with that horn,
makes you wish you weren't born,
ever'time he plays;
and with a square in the act,
he's gonna set this music back
to the Stone Age days.
Everybody wants to be a cat,
because a cat's the only cat
who knows where it's at;*

*while playin' jazz you always has a Welcome mat,
'cause everybody digs a swingin' cat.
Everybody digs a swingin' cat.*

WILD CAT 1

Humans are coming!

WILD CAT 2

Scatter!

*(Everyone on stage scatters in different directions, except PUSS, who hides behind a bush.
LAWYER, PETER, MATTHEW and JOHN. The Lawyer is carrying a briefcase.)*

LAWYER

So, now you've had a tour of your late uncle's estate, what do you think of it?

PETER

Brilliant! It's got everything! A nice big house, lots of fields and a nice flour mill.

MATTHEW

It should be a very good business the flour mill. Everyone needs bread.

LAWYER

Very true. I think it's probably time to read the will. If you would care to sit down over there, I will begin.

(The three brothers sit down on the bench and the LAWYER gets a piece of paper out of his briefcase.)

JOHN

I wonder what our uncle has left us? I mean we didn't really know him, did we?

PETER

No. But he was our only relative and he's got to leave all of this to someone.

MATTHEW

Of course he has.

LAWYER (*reading*)

This is the last will and testament of Joshua Groombridge. Being of sound mind excetera, excetera...I hereby bequeath to my eldest nephew, Peter Groombridge, my house and all the land surrounding it.

PETER

Yes! I'm a rich man! Thank you Uncle Joshua!

LAWYER

To my second eldest nephew, Matthew Groombridge, I leave the flour mill.

MATTHEW

Brilliant!

PETER

Wait a minute! I thought you said he left me all the land?

LAWYER

He did. But the flour mill is separate.

PETER

Well that's not fair!

MATTHEW

Hey! Don't be greedy! You've got the house and all the farming land!

JOHN

What about me? Is there anything left for me?

LAWYER

Er...in a way.

JOHN

Like what?

LAWYER

Mr Groombridge left you his cat.

MATTHEW (*laughing*)

His cat! Ha, ha, ha!

PETER (*also laughing*)

Well that will make you rich won't it? Ha, ha, ha.

LAWYER

Actually Mr Groombridge said that Master John - and I quote his very words - "should look after the cat well because it will make his fortune for him."

JOHN (*gloomily*)

I thought you said he was in sound mind when he made this will. It sounds to me as though he was completely crazy! Whoever heard of a cat making someone a fortune?

PETER

Never mind, John. I expect we can offer you a job and you can certainly live in the big house with us.

JOHN

Thank you. Where is this cat, anyway?

(PUSS leaps out of hiding. Takes his hat off and bows to the three brothers.)

PUSS

At your service young master.

MATTHEW

A talking cat! Maybe he will make your fortune after all!

PETER

Yes, you could tour with a travelling circus!

PUSS

I am more value to you than that, master. How do you think your uncle got so rich?

JOHN

That was your doing?

PUSS

Of course.

JOHN

How?

PUSS

Oh by wheeling and dealing, begging and borrowing, but never, ever by stealing. Your uncle's lawyer will tell you.

LAWYER

The late Mr Groombridge did always insist that his good fortune was down to his cat. He was most insistent about that.

PETER

Did you not think that he might be mad?

LAWYER

Well he may have been mad but there is no denying he was very rich.

PUSS

What do you say? Why not take a chance on me?

SONG 2. Take A Chance On Me. (Everyone on stage)

If you change your mind, I'm the first in line

Honey I'm still free

Take a chance on me

If you need me, let me know, gonna be around

If you've got no place to go, if you're feeling down

If you're all alone when the pretty birds have flown

Honey I'm still free

Take a chance on me

Gonna do my very best and it ain't no lie

If you put me to the test, if you let me try

Take a chance on me

(That's all I ask of you honey)

Take a chance on me

We can go dancing, we can go walking, as long as we're together

Listen to some music, maybe just talking, get to know you better

'Cos you know I've got

So much that I wanna do, when I dream I'm alone with you

It's magic

You want me to leave it there, afraid of a love affair

But I think you know

That I can't let go

If you change your mind, I'm the first in line

Honey I'm still free

Take a chance on me

If you need me, let me know, gonna be around

If you've got no place to go, if you're feeling down
If you're all alone when the pretty birds have flown
Honey I'm still free
Take a chance on me
Gonna do my very best and it ain't no lie
If you put me to the test, if you let me try

Take a chance on me
(Come on, give me a break will you?)
Take a chance on me
Oh you can take your time baby, I'm in no hurry, know I'm gonna get you
You don't wanna hurt me, baby don't worry, I ain't gonna let you
Let me tell you now
My love is strong enough to last when things are rough
It's magic
You say that I waste my time but I can't get you off my mind
No I can't let go
'Cos I love you so

If you change your mind, I'm the first in line
Honey I'm still free
Take a chance on me
If you need me, let me know, gonna be around
If you've got no place to go, if you're feeling down
If you're all alone when the pretty birds have flown
Honey I'm still free
Take a chance on me
Gonna do my very best, baby can't you see
Gotta put me to the test, take a chance on me
(Take a chance, take a chance, take a chance on me)

Ba ba ba baa, ba ba ba baa
Honey I'm still free
Take a chance on me

Gonna do my very best, baby can't you see
Gotta put me to the test, take a chance on me
(Take a chance, take a chance, take a chance on me)

Ba ba ba ba baa, ba ba ba ba baa ba-ba
Honey I'm still free
Take a chance on me

JOHN

OK. I'm convinced. We'll give it a go and see if you can make my fortune for me.

PUSS

You won't regret it. There is only one thing I ask.

JOHN

What's that?

PUSS

That you get me a pair of boots. I've always wanted a pair of boots.

JOHN

Would mine do?

PETER

You're mad! You don't have another pair of boots!

PUSS

They look perfect.

(JOHN takes off his boots and gives them to PUSS, who puts them on.)

JOHN

They fit really well.

MATTHEW

Can you hear yourself? You are talking to a cat and you've just given him your only pair of boots!

JOHN

He's my cat and I'll do what I like.

PETER

Mad. Completely off his rocker. Come on. Let's leave the loony and his cat to get on with it.

MATTHEW

Don't forget. There's a bed in the house for you – if you want it. But just you – not the cat.

(PETER and MATTHEW leave)

LAWYER *(giving JOHN a business card)*

I have no doubt that you will make your fortune. Please come and see me if you want me to manage your financial affairs.

JOHN

Thank you.

(LAWYER leaves)

PUSS

So it's just me and you now, master. But I suggest that you go and take advantage of that bed that was offered. Just for a while, until I find you a better place.

JOHN

Thank you Puss. Keep in touch, won't you?

PUSS

Of course. You shall hear from me very soon.

JOHN *(To the audience)*

I think I must be mad! But I do like an adventure!

(JOHN leaves)

PUSS

You can come out now!

(All the WILD CATS enter from offstage.)

WILD CAT 3

Nice boots, boss!

PUSS

Thank you. I think they give me an air of importance, don't you?

WILD CAT 4

They sure do, boss.

WILD CAT 5

So what's the plan? What do you want us to do?

PUSS

The first thing we need to do is go and catch a load of rabbits.

WILD CAT 6

Ooh! I love hunting!

WILD CAT 1

What do you want the rabbits for, boss?

PUSS

I know a King who has a desperate need of them.

WILD CAT 2

Really, boss? You're so clever.

PUSS

I know. Now, off you go! And don't come back until you've caught as many rabbits as you can!

(The WILD CATS all rush off, meowing excitedly)

Phase One of my master plan is about to begin.

END OF SCENE 1/